

DURING THE COURSE OF ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF THE NEW PARK SITE, THE DIVISION of State Parks and Recreation identified the need to expand the facilities that are currently provided in the existing Lake James State Park. These include facilities for camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, environmental education and boating. The state also explored other options regarding the future role and use of the current park site. With this decision, the minimum development program for the new park was immediately established. In subsequent meetings with the division, the park staff and the park advisory committee (PAC), several additional program elements were identified, discussed and evaluated.

The division provided several opportunities for the public to provide input on the park master plan. Two public workshops were held, one in Marion and another in Morganton. In these meetings, the design team presented an overview of the park expansion project and the initial analysis information. The attendees were able to ask questions and discuss the opportunities and challenges presented by the park expansion. Questionnaires were made available asking attendees to comment on various aspects of Lake James State Park. Information was provided to allow individuals to contact the design team and state park officials via mail, e-mail and telephone. Public opinions gathered from the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) were also used to assess demand for and appropriateness of facility development. The SCORP survey results outline the demand for park facilities and guide the appropriateness for the spending of public funds by the State.

Based on this information, the park program was further discussed and refined as alternative development plans were prepared by the design team. The alternative plans were reviewed by the division's park staff and by the PAC. The plans were then posted on the division's Lake James State Park Website for viewing and comment by the public. The final master plan program was determined through evaluation of all of the options presented in the alternative plans.

The recreation program for Lake James State Park addresses the need to expand current services to accommodate increasing use by the public. The program includes new uses such as primitive camping and bike/hike trails that were identified as beneficial and feasible on the new park property. The program also explores ways to allow the managed use of the park while providing uses that reflect the tradition of recreation that people have long enjoyed on Lake James, such as bank fishing and boat camping.

Programming for the park included Community Workshops in Marion and Morganton





Long Arm Peninsula and Center Parcel Development

Secondary Entrance off of NC Hwy 126, near the Linville River
(shared access with Crescent Resources proposed lodge facilities)

Ranger Residence

Trail Head Parking area with restrooms
(potential expansion to provide equestrian trail head parking)

Tent Camping, 35 sites with tent pad, picnic table, lantern hook, fire ring, clustered water service each 4 to 6 sites, washhouse

Multi-Use Trails including a section of the Lake James Trail corridor and the Reserve Area with hike only trails

Primitive Camping, 25 sites with tent pad, lantern hook and fire ring

Boat Camping, clusters of 5 to 10 sites with tent pad, picnic table, lantern hook, fire ring, central water service and washhouse

Center Parcel Development

Primitive Camping, 25 sites with tent pad, lantern hook and fire ring

Multi-Use Trails including a section of the Lake James Trail corridor and a loop hike only trail



Paddy Creek Peninsula Development

Main Entrance off of NC Hwy 126
 Scenic Overlook at entrance
 Entry Drive (app. 2 miles)
 Paddy Creek Bridge

Ranger Residence

Visitors Center with classroom, auditorium and offices

Barracks for seasonal staff

Maintenance Facility with warehouse, garage, workshop and lumber shop

Cabins, 14 units with water, electric service and washhouse

Trailhead Parking with group picnic area and restrooms

Canoe/Kayak Launch

Bank Fishing trail

Pedestrian Bridge

RV and Trailer Camping, 22 sites with water, sewer, electric, washhouse and dump station

Tent Camping, 35 sites with tent pad, picnic table, lantern hook, fire ring, clustered water service each 4 to 6 sites, washhouse

Group Camp, 5 sites, 20 to 30 campers per site, remote parking lot, picnic table, fire ring, lantern hook, water service, washhouse and community area

Family Picnic area, large shelter with restrooms, small shelters, 25 to 35 picnic tables

Swim Area, bathhouse/concessions building, swim beach with grass beach and observation areas,

Boat access dock with staff boat launch, boat rental and storage

Parking Area, shared between swim area and picnic area

Community Building, large picnic shelter with restrooms, events lawn, small amphitheater and parking area

Fishing Pier and bank fishing trail

Cemetery Loop hiking trail, Multi-Use Trails including Canal Bridge trail, Cove Side trail, a section of the Over Mountain Victory Trail, an accessible interpretive trail, and a section of the Lake James Trail Corridor

